Water scarcity in Kerala

1724. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether there were acute water scarcity in regions of Kerala during summer season;

(b) whether there were several drinking water schemes that were remaining incomplete;

(c) if so, the number of drinking water schemes to be completed and the present status of the above schemes;

(d) the details of drinking water schemes submitted by competent authority of Kerala for approval, if any;

(e) the action taken to check large scale extraction of water by soft drink bottling plants and water theme parks during summer; and

(f) the action taken in details to resolve water scarcity during summer seasons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JAY PRAKASH NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) As reported by Government of Kerala, 2691 drinking water schemes were taken up, out of which 1895 have been completed. The rest of the schemes are under implementation.

(d) No proposal has been submitted by Kerala Water Authority.

(e) The Kerala Ground Water (Control and Regulation) Act, 2002 came into effect on December 16,2003. As per the provisions in the act, Kerala Ground Water Authority has been constituted which can recommend to Government for notification of areas in the State where ground water over exploitation is taking place. The authority has studied the large scale extraction of water by soft drink factories.

(f) As reported by Government of Kerala, schemes under Rajeev Gandhi Drinking Water Mission, Rainwater Harvesting and Artificial Recharge is being implemented by the State Ground Water Department. The Government of Kerala has chalked out an action plan to complete certain ongoing schemes and the works are in progress.